

## 2. EQUIPMENT

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- **2-2 Ballistic Helmets**

**MAJOR CRIMES BUREAU**

**DETECTIVE DIVISION**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Bureau Order Number: **2-2**

Subject: **BALLISTIC HELMETS**

Effective Date:	11-07-2006	Last Date Revised:	11-07-2006
Last Date Reviewed:	09-09-2021	Next Review Date:	09-09-2022

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Bureau Order is to standardize the criteria for use of the ballistic helmets by Major Crimes Bureau personnel.

### **SCOPE**

This order shall apply to all Major Crimes Bureau (MCB) sworn personnel who are engaged in planned tactical operations involving the service of search or arrest warrants, or other searches of fixed structures.

### **ORDER**

The Major Crimes Bureau has recently obtained (United Shield, Commando SC650, NIJ Level IIIA) ballistic helmets for use by sworn personnel during tactical operations. All personnel involved in a planned tactical operation involving the search of, or entry into, a fixed structure where the known risk factors (as determined by the search warrant preparation checklist (SH-R 461) indicate a moderate or higher risk, shall wear their issued ballistic helmets during entry and clearing activities. Exceptions to this order shall require the prior

approval of the Detail Lieutenant.

At any time a violent confrontation can be anticipated (arrests or take downs following violent felonies, etc.), consideration shall be given, where feasible, to donning the ballistic helmets prior to contacting the suspect(s).

Personnel shall be responsible for the safe storage and care of their issued helmets. Any damage, or the loss/theft of an issued helmet, shall require a memorandum detailing the circumstances surrounding the incident. Additional reports may be required as determined by the Detail Lieutenant.

Team Sergeants shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this order.

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• **2-4 Personal Cell Phones in Custody Facilities**

**MAJOR CRIMES BUREAU**

**DETECTIVE DIVISION**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Bureau Order Number: **2-4**

Subject: **Personal Cell Phones in Custody Facilities**

Effective Date:	09-01-2011	Last Date Revised:	11-13-2015
Last Date Reviewed:	09-09-2021	Next Review Date:	09-09-2022

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this order is to establish policy regarding the use of personal cell phones by Major Crimes Bureau personnel.

**GUIDELINES**

Possession of a wireless communication device, including, but not limited to, a cellular telephone, voice over internet protocol (VOIP) phone, or wireless internet device, in a secured area is prohibited.

**A secured area is defined as a correctional facility, station jail and court lock-up.**

Per 4575(a)PC Any person in a local correctional facility who possesses a wireless communication device, including, but not limited to, a cellular telephone, pager or wireless internet device, who is not authorized to possess that item is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

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• **2-5 PIRANHA Tire Deflation Device**

**MAJOR CRIMES BUREAU**

**DETECTIVE DIVISION**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Bureau Order Number: **2-5**

Subject: **PIRANHA Tire Deflation Device**

Effective Date:	06-24-2019	Last Date Revised:	06-24-2019
Last Date Reviewed:	09-09-2021	Next Review Date:	09-09-2022

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this order is to provide guidelines for the issuance of the PIRANHA tire deflation device and to establish policy for deployment and reporting procedures.

**GUIDELINES**

**Overview**

The PIRANHA tire deflation device is a tool that can assist in preventing vehicle pursuits. The PIRANHA is placed on the ground, near a designated tire of an unoccupied stationary vehicle. Once the target vehicle is moved and the tire rides over the PIRANHA, it will result in the tire rapidly deflating in approximately five seconds. The use of the PIRANHA may also prevent property damage, and reduces liability by minimizing the dangers associated with vehicle pursuits.

## Description

The PIRANHA tire deflation device is 3 ½ inches (8.9cm) in length and weighs 5.2 ounces (147g). It is comprised of:

- (1) Black polypropylene **shroud** which covers the quills and allows safe handling.
- (2) Teflon coated hardened steel **quills**; 3/8 inch (.95cm) in diameter and 2 inch (5.08cm) in length oriented in the cartridge and secured perpendicular to the base.
- (1) Glass polypropylene **cartridge** to which the shroud is secured and which holds the quills in place.
- (1) 3 5/16 inch (7.94cm) ABS plastic **base** into which the cartridge is inserted.
- (2) Polymer **end caps** which hold the cartridge at the base.
- (4) Fastening **screws** to secure end caps.

## Training

The Major Crimes Bureau has PIRANHA tire deflation devices available for use by designated Bureau personnel. The training sergeant shall maintain a list of Bureau personnel who have been trained in the use of the PIRANHA. Only personnel who have completed the four hour training course, or equivalent training, will be issued the equipment.

## Deployment

The PIRANHA tire deflation device shall only be used in surveillance apprehension operations, and when the target vehicle is stationary and believed to be unoccupied. Additionally, it shall only be used on active criminal investigations involving suspects of any crime. It may be deployed **only** on four wheeled vehicles. Once deployed, personnel must be cautious of pedestrians in the area and ensure they can safely monitor the target vehicle and what evolves once it makes contact with the PIRANHA.

In rare cases, the PIRANHA may be deployed on a vehicle where the suspect (seated in the driver's seat) has been determined to be asleep. In these situations, a supervisor on scene shall conduct an assessment of the situation and develop a tactical plan to safely place the PIRANHA while undetected by the suspect.

The PIRANHA tire deflation device is deployed by placing it on a surface (ie driveway, gravel/sand surfaces, or parking lot), approximately 6 inches from the target tire, with the grooved base face down against the surface. Multiple PIRANHA may be utilized at the same time to ensure both forward and reverse driving options are addressed. When deploying the PIRANHA, consider approach, placement, and potential reactions by suspect(s) and/or pedestrians if seen.

The PIRANHA tire deflation device can be reused. If the PIRANHA was effectively used and deflated a tire, a Hit Kit will be needed to reload for future deployment. If the PIRANHA was not effectively used, and did not deflate a tire, it can be deployed again as is after being inspected.

## Documentation

Personnel requesting deployment of the PIRANHA tire deflation device shall notify their immediate supervisor stating their reasons for the request. Upon approval of the request, the PIRANHA stop device may be employed. If the PIRANHA is effectively used and deflates the tire of a vehicle, this will be documented in a

PIRANHA deployment form (refer to attachment “A”). The completed document will be stored electronically in a shared files for five years. Each supervisor is responsible for ensuring the form is completed and placed in the appropriate shared file. The training sergeant is responsible for maintaining the shared files.

**References**

Manual Policy and Procedures 5-09/210.15, Pursuit – Vehicle Operation and Tactics, Pursuit Termination Technology/Devices

Field Operations Directive 98-010, Tire Deflation Deployment

Stop Tech, Guidelines for Use of Piranha, Student Lesson Plan

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